Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraphs starting at page 9, line 31, to page 10, line 33, with the following amended paragraph:

Now, referring to Figures 2 and 3, a chamber 30 is illustrated which is employed during particle 24 application. The chamber 30 has a top side 32, a bottom side 34, and three vertical sides 36, 38, and 40 extending from the bottom side 34 to the top side 32. A door 42 is provided to permit access to the interior of the chamber 30. To assist in air flow within the chamber 30, which is further discussed below, the top side 32 comprises a screen 44 having a mesh number sufficiently large to prevent the particles 24 from exiting the chamber 30 during barrier layer 22 application to the adhesive layer 18. Extending outwardly from the top side 32 is a hopper 46 which is operably connected to the interior of the chamber 30. The location of the hopper 46 is not critical, but it has been found that substantially uniform distribution of the particles 24 occurs when the hopper 46 is proximate the intersection of either vertical side 38 and either vertical sides 36 or 40 or the intersection of the door 42 and either vertical sides 36 or 40. As illustrated, a port 48 having a valve 49 extends outwardly from vertical side 36 and is operably connectable to a fluid source, such as compressed air. The port 48 can extend outwardly from either of the vertical sides 36, 38, or 40, but should be disposed on the vertical side opposite the hopper 46. Additionally, the port 48 can extend outwardly from the door [[44]] 42. To assist in barrier layer 22 application when particles are being applied to a substrate 12/adhesive layer 18 assembly in which the substrate 12 is smaller than the bottom side 34, a funnel 50 is disposed within the interior of the chamber 30. The funnel 50 is mounted to vertical sides 36, 38, and 40 and extends from vertical sides 36, 38, and 40 and the door [[44]] 42 downwardly toward the bottom side 34 ~~substantially parallel to the respective vertical side and the door 34~~ to terminate at a funnel edge 52, thereby forming an opening 54. In one embodiment, the opening 54 has substantially the same peripheral shape as the substrate 12. That is, the funnel edges 52 align with the edges of the substrate. Accordingly, it has been discovered that substantially all of the particles 24 introduced into the interior of the chamber 30 through the hopper 46 accumulate on the adhesive layer 18.

In operation, a substrate 12/adhesive layer 18 assembly 11 is positioned within the chamber 30, and the door [[44]] 42 is closed and secured by a latch 56. The valve 49 is opened and a fluid, such as air or any gas which is inert with respect to the composition of the substrate 12, adhesive layer 18, and barrier layer 22, is introduced into the chamber at a rate

of about 3.5 standard cubic feet per minute ("SCFM") to about 12 SCFM. In one aspect of the invention, the fluid flow rate is about 7 SCFM. The fluid flow rate can be adjusted either higher or lower than about 3.5 SCFM to about 12 SCFM depending upon the particles 24 and the adhesive employed, and such flow rate can be determined through routine experimentation. Thereafter, the particles 24 are fed into the interior of the chamber 30 through the hopper 46, whereby the particles 24 adhere to the adhesive surface 20 to form the barrier layer 22 and the surface covering 10.